



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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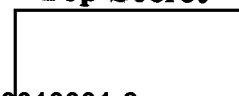


National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

2 April 1979

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Contents

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Briefs and Comments

25X1

Arab States: *Baghdad Summit* 3

Cuba: *Diplomatic Campaign* 5

Bangladesh: *New Prime Minister* 6

Afghanistan: *New Cabinet Announced* 7

Italy: *Confidence Vote* 7

China: *Erroneous Rumors* 7

Sweden: *Nuclear Power* 8

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2004/04/12 : CIA-RDP79T00975A031300010001-2

BRIEFS AND COMMENTS

ARAB STATES: Baghdad Summit

The sanctions against Egypt voted by the Arab League at Baghdad on Saturday formalize Egypt's political isolation in the Arab world and threaten Cairo with major economic penalties. . The precise economic impact will depend largely on how Saudi Arabia interprets its obligations, but its room for maneuver has now been reduced. Egypt's initial response has been to reassure its people that the government is prepared for any eventuality.

Principal sanctions include:

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- Immediate withdrawal of Arab ambassadors from Cairo and a "recommendation" of a total political break within a month.
- Expulsion of Egypt from the Arab League and its affiliated bodies and "temporary" transfer of League headquarters from Cairo to Tunis.
- An end to all economic aid to Egypt by Arab governments.

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CUBA: Diplomatic Campaign

//Since early 1979, Cuba has been engaged in a massive person-to-person diplomatic campaign using high-level "roving ambassadors." The Cubans hope to demonstrate the "independence" of their foreign policy and thus gain support for their nonaligned credentials and leadership role, as well as ensure a large attendance at the summit meeting scheduled for September in Havana.//

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//The campaign started prior to the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau meeting in Maputo in late January, when at least seven Cuban delegations journeyed through Africa--the main focus of the earlier effort--and the Middle East. Several reports now claim that Cuban leader Fidel Castro himself plans some travel to Africa and possibly to Western Europe prior to the summit.//

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The Cuban representatives arrive--sometimes without invitations--with a personal invitation from Castro to the chief of state to attend the Havana summit. Where they have no relations, the Cubans generally also suggest opening or reopening an embassy and bring up an offer of technical assistance.

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The Cubans have met with considerable success. In Africa in 1970, for example, Havana had diplomatic relations with only seven countries; today it has them with 36. Cuba already has diplomatic ties with 66 of 88 non-aligned nations, and the Foreign Ministry's budget for 1979 includes plans to open 17 new embassies, even though Cuba's hard-currency shortage requires a cut in funds for embassies and commercial offices.

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BANGLADESH: New Prime Minister

President Ziaur Rahman has named Shah Azizur Rahman, his former labor minister and leader of one faction of the opposition Muslim League, to be Prime Minister of the new government. Aziz had been characterized earlier as anti-American, but he is also known to be a pragmatic and ambitious politician who should quickly learn to support President Zia's moderate and pro-US stance. [REDACTED]

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The appointment of an outsider to the top post--coveted by many within Zia's own Bangladesh National Party--could lead to further splintering of the party and hinder Zia's control. Although the Muslim League won less than 20 parliamentary seats in the election last February, as compared to over 200 for Zia's party, Zia may have chosen Aziz in repayment for his possible role in influencing the Muslim League to contest the parliamentary elections--a decision which helped to break the boycott of opposition parties and led to Zia's overwhelming victory. [REDACTED]

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AFGHANISTAN: New Cabinet Announced

The composition of the Afghan cabinet announced Saturday does not seem to indicate any change in government policies. The new Prime Minister, Hafizullah Amin, has been in charge of government operations for several months. He also will retain the foreign ministry portfolio. General Staff Chief Watanjar was named to the long-vacant defense ministry, presumably to strengthen military loyalty to the government. Amin, however, is likely to retain a major role in deciding military policies. [REDACTED]

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ITALY: Confidence Vote

The three-party government proposed by Italian Prime Minister Andreotti lost a parliamentary vote of confidence by one vote late Saturday night. President Pertini has already asked Andreotti to continue in a caretaker capacity and apparently will call an election after dissolving Parliament today. The Italian vote will probably be held simultaneously with the European parliamentary election scheduled for 10 June. [REDACTED]

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CHINA: Erroneous Rumors

//The public appearance of Party Vice Chairman Wang Dongxing on Saturday refutes rumors circulating in Beijing that he and several other senior officials have been arrested or expelled from the party. Although the removal of these officials would have been a political victory for Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping, the spoils would probably have been more symbolic than real. All of the Politburo members whose names are mentioned in the rumors had lost considerable political power, and most of them had been stripped of all but their Politburo seats at major leadership meetings last November and December. [REDACTED]

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SWEDEN: Nuclear Power

//Prime Minister Ullsten will announce this week his endorsement of a government board's decision to accept power company evidence that nuclear waste can safely be stored in Sweden. The storage question had to be resolved before Sweden's seventh and eighth reactors could be loaded or before four additional reactors included in the government's long-range energy plan could be commissioned. That plan is expected to be approved this spring. The board's decision, however, will not settle the increasingly bitter political duel between pro- and anti-nuclear factions; indeed it will guarantee that energy will be a central campaign theme prior to the parliamentary election in September.// [REDACTED]

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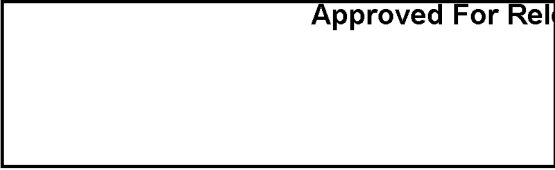
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